

STOWMARKET
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,
1919.

STOWMARKET:
PRINTED BY J. NEWBY, 45 IPSWICH STREET.

*To the
Chairman and Members
of the
Stowmarket Urban District Council.*

STOWMARKET,

March, 1920.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Stowmarket for the year ending 31st December, 1919.

Population 4230 (Census 1911). 4237 (Estimated for 1919).

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate.

Birth Rate
18·40 per
1000.

There were 78 births (males 41, females 37), giving a Birth Rate of 18·40 per 1000, compared with 21·39 in 1918, 18·5 in 1917, 19·1 in 1916 and 24·4 in 1915. (The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 18·5 per 1000 for 1919). There were 5 illegitimate births.

Death Rate.

Death Rate
13·27 per
1000.

There were 54 deaths (males 21, females 33), giving a Death Rate of 13·27 per 1000 compared with 16·82 in 1918, 12·17 in 1917, 12·0 in 1916 and 19·3 in 1915. (The Death Rate for England and Wales was 13·8 per 1000 in 1919).

Infant Mortality.

Infant
Mortality
12·82 per
1000 nett
Births.

There was only one death amongst infants under one year of age, giving an Infant Mortality of 12·82 per 1000 nett births in 1919, compared with 85·10 in 1918, 45·45 in 1917, 88·8 in 1916, and 114·0 in 1915. (The rate for England and Wales was 89·0 per 1000 in 1919).

This one death was registered as "Debility from Birth."

There were 7 deaths from Influenza, 5 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 from other Tuberculosis disease and 7 from Cancer.

The Vital Statistics have been based on a population of 4237 for calculating the Birth Rate, and of 4067 for calculating the Death Rate as given by the Registrar General for the year 1919.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

The Town has an excellent water supply derived from two deep wells into the chalk, reservoir capacity 200,000 gallons. The Candy Filter Co. erected a filtering plant to treat the water. This plant removes a greater part of the iron and reduces hardness 50 per cent.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Gipping is free from pollution.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole of the sewerage of the town gravitates to the Main Pumping Station, from thence it is pumped up on to the Sewage farm through a 11in. rising main and thence through filtering tanks. The sludge is separated and the effluent flows on to the land through carriers provided. The final purification takes places on the osier beds.

The effluent passes off clear and free from smell into the River Gipping.

Area of Farm 30 acres. Crops grown—osiers and beet.

This year the sewage pumps have been reconstructed at a cost of £1468. The sewage from Ipswich Road gravitates to the Electrical Pumping Station at Combs. It is then pumped back to Stowmarket and gravitates to Main Pumping Station at Stowmarket. The Pumping Station at Combs belongs to the East Stow Rural District Council. The Combs Sewage is pumped back to Stowmarket.

Total amount of sewage and surface water pumped in 1919 on to Farm was 83,952,000 gallons. The Sewage Farm is governed by a Joint Committee of the Stowmarket Urban District Council and the East Stow Rural District Council.

The Farm is managed by the Surveyor of the Stowmarket Urban District Council, Mr. G. W. Lingwood.

The Sewers in parts of the town are badly constructed with butt pipes, no joints.

The following streets will have to be reconstructed. These have been left over owing to the War.

Defective Sewers.

Butt Pipes :—

Ipswich Street
Bury Street (part)
Tavern Street
Finborough Road
Violet Hill Road
Violet Hill
Childer Road
Union Street (part)

Closet Accommo- dation.	Privies, fixed receptacles	...	...	...	...	14
	Earth Closets	...	...	...	...	4
	Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	22
	Water Closets, with and without flushing cisterns					1269
					Total	1309

29 Water closets have been provided with flushing apparatus during the year. 16 New Water Closets constructed.

Scavenging.

The refuse is collected twice per week and carted on to a tip adjoining the railway.

Number of tons disposed of—1092.

No fixed ashpits in the district.

The sanitary tins for depositing the refuse in are mostly boxes, pails and baths.

Earth closets in the area cleansed once a fortnight.

Privies every three months.

Statutory notices served 36. Complied 32.

Other notices served 17. Complied 10.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

Number of premises visited 166.

Total inspection 354.

Defects found :—Drains not trapped. Water closets hand flushed, not sufficient. Rain water pipes not trapped, drains blocked, drains defective, butt pipes, yards paving defective, gulleys defective, flushing cisterns out of order, burst pipes, brick floors damp, sinks defective, water closets require rebuilding, windows fixed, no ventilation.

12 houses drains defective, not jointed, pigs kept too near house. Butt pipe under dwelling house, brick on edge drains, water closets, no ventilation, and houses overcrowded.

1 bedroom, boys 13, 14 and 17, 675 c.f.

1 bedroom, boys 6, 8, 10, 13 and 16, 970 c.f.

1 bedroom, girls 16 and 17, boys 8, 6, and 3, 560 c.f.

1 bedroom, boys 9, 15, 16 and 18, girl 11.

1 house, 2 bedrooms.

1 bedroom, boy 9 months, girls 4, 15 and 17, father and mother, 925 c.f.

1 bedroom, boys 13, 9 and 7, Girls 10, 6 and 5.

Schools.

Three Schools, all well drained and provided with an adequate supply of water. All the schools are well disinfected.

Cow Sheds.

Food.

Three in the district. 12 inspections. The condition has been satisfactory.

Bake Houses.

Nine in the district. 36 inspections. One will be done away with and a new bake house constructed. The general condition is satisfactory.

Slaughter Houses.

Six Slaughter Houses. 50 inspections. One has been closed. They are scattered in various parts of the town. One butcher has 2 slaughter houses, one in the centre of the town, and one just on the boundary.

No Public Abattoir in the district.

Unsound Food.

Dates condemned—5 cwt. 1 qr. 48 lbs.

Bacon and Hams—6 cwt. 0 qr. 11 lbs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following were notified during the year:—

Measles ...	...	...	7	(5 German Measles, 2 Measles).
Diphtheria ...	...	...	10	(9 removed to Isolation Hospital).
Scarlet Fever ..	...	...	1	(removed to Isolation Hospital).
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	1	(removed to Isolation Hospital).
Erysipelas ...	...	...	1	
Malaria ...	...	...	1	(discharged soldier) removed to East Suffolk Hospital).
Pneumonia ...	...	...	11	(2 Influenzal Pneumonia, sent to Isolation Hospital).
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			1	
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	6	(1 Lungs).

Only one case of Scarlet Fever was notified during the year, and that on the last day of the year.

There has been an increase of Diphtheria.

Antitoxin is provided free for all cases if necessary.

The case of Enteric Fever was imported from Kensington.

Two cases of Influenzal Pneumonia were removed to the Isolation Hospital and one died there.

Influenza.

An epidemic recurred in February, reaching its height in March and subsiding early in April. There were 6 deaths during the epidemic (males 2, females 4), aged 48, 41, 34, 29, 25 and 19 years respectively.

Pamphlets had already been issued from house to house in November 1918, and the Committee of the Stowmarket Nursing Association undertook to arrange for home nursing as far as possible.

Ten out of the 11 cases of Pneumonia were notified in March and April, towards the end of the Influenza Epidemic.

There was a marked absence of other diseases such as Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Follicular Tonsilitis during the Influenza epidemic in February, March and April, as also during the epidemic in October and November, 1918.

Diphtheria. Defects found.

1st case—Defective sink, brick floor damp.

2nd case—House overcrowded.

3rd case—Window fixed, brick floor damp, ventilation bedroom not sufficient.

4th case—Paving yard defective, 3 brick floors damp, closet hand flushed, yards concreted and floors. Flushing cisterns to 3 closets.

5th case—No defects.

6th case—No defects.

7th case—Floors damp, closet hand flushed, applies to 7 closets in same row.

8th case—No defects.

9th case—House overcrowded. 12 houses in this row. 7 are overcrowded. Sanitary arrangements: Privy middens, no sinks, back bedrooms ventilation bad.

10th case—Nos. 7 and 10. 2 cases in one house.

Nos. 8 and 10 no doubt infected by direct contact with No. 7.

Pneumonia.

1st case—Bedroom damp, kitchen floor and wall.

2nd case—Roof defective.

3rd case—Water closets defective.

4th case—Sash windows fixed, floors damp, yard not paved. 5 closets to 9 houses. Back bedroom badly ventilated. Bedroom damp.

5th case—No defects.

6th case—Living room damp, yard not paved, closet hand flushed. All defects remedied.

7th case—House very damp, back bedroom not fit to sleep in. Walls $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. 3 persons died of consumption in this house—Mother and 2 daughters. Ventilation bedroom bad.

8th, 9th, 10th and 11th cases—Four cases in 3 gipsy vans.

Erysipelas.

1 case—House badly overcrowded. 12 persons in 2 bedrooms.

Enteric Fever. No defects.

Tuberculosis.

1st case—No defects.

2nd case—Floor damp.

3rd case—Floor damp.

4th case—No defects.

5th case—House in very bad state of repair and damp. Undergoing extensive repairs. Closing order issued.

6th case—No defects.

Malaria. Living room floor defective.

Scarlet Fever.

1 case—12 houses drains defective and yards no paving. The whole of the drains have been reconstructed and ventilated, and yards concreted.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

An Infant Welfare Centre was opened in Stowmarket on January 24th, 1919. This is intended to serve the Stowmarket Urban District and the East Stow Rural District, but in reality only a few mothers and infants from the parishes adjacent to Stowmarket are able to attend from the East Stow District, though Miss Coulton, who has been appointed by the County Council as Health Visitor in charge of the Centre, visits mothers and infants in the whole district. This, our first year, has been most successful and encouraging.

45 Meetings were held during the year.

Average attendance at meetings, Mothers 15. Children 17.

126 names on register at end of year.

8 members have left the district.

25 names removed from register owing to non-attendance.

The total of non-attending mothers is 19.

There has been no death.

It will be seen from the Vital Statistics that there has only been one death this year amongst infants under one year of age which is surely a record. The Committee of the Infant Welfare Centre have approved of a scheme prepared by Miss Coulton for extending the Infant Welfare Work, comprising chiefly a Maternity Ward of 2 beds and 2 cots. A Ward for ailing babies, 2 cots. A Nursery School, the training of home helps, and a Dental Clinic.

This scheme has been forwarded to the County Council, who are not yet prepared to sanction the necessary expenditure for an object so extremely beneficial to human society.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Stowmarket Isolation Hospital serves three districts, i.e., Stowmarket Urban, East Stow Rural, and Thedwastre Rural, under a joint agreement.

Total number of beds, 24, contained in 4 wards.

Total cases admitted during year, 22.

From Stowmarket Urban District:—

Diphtheria 9, Scarlet Fever 1, Enteric Fever 1, and Influenzal-pneumonia 2.

One death from Influenzal-pneumonia.

From East Stow Rural District:—

Diphtheria 6, and Scarlet Fever 3.

One death from Diphtheria.

From Thedwastre Rural District:—Nil.

Two deaths have taken place in the Isolation Hospital this year, and I would like to remind the 3 Councils concerned that we are still without a Mortuary; the difficulty arising from this fact can easily be imagined. There is no bathroom. There is no method of providing artificial light except by means of oil lamps.

There is a thoroughly up-to-date steam disinfecting plant.

The Hospital is well managed by a fully-qualified Matron who has a Probationer to assist.

HOUSING.

- I. 1. General Housing conditions in the District.

Total number of houses in the Urban District	...	1065
Working class houses		818
Houses erected		Nil
Houses in course of erection		9
2. Population 4237.
3. (a) Shortage ... 125
 - (b) To erect ... 125
- II. (1) Overcrowding, 54 cases.
- (2) Shortage of houses due to:—last 10 years very few houses have been erected.
- (3) To erect 125 houses to deal with overcrowding and condemned houses.
- (4) Overcrowding, 4 cases abated.
- III. Fitness of Houses.
 - (1) (a) A considerable amount of repairs is required to be done.
 - (b) Bad ventilation, damp floors, bad construction.
 - (2) Notices to be served.
 - (3) The difficulties in remedying some of the defects due to structural alteration which cannot take place until the tenants are removed.

- (4) A considerable number of the houses are provided with 1 tap for drinking and flushing purposes to a row, and the water closets hand flushed.

VII. (1) Number of complaints as to houses unfit for habitation, Nil.

(2) Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1909.

(a) Number of houses inspected ... 138

(b) Number of houses unfit ... 62

(c) Defects remedied ... Nil

(d) Inspections ... 296

General Defects:—

Regent Street.

Nos. 41, 43, 45, and 47. Back bedroom very damp, 4½in. walls, ventilation bad, brick floors damp, closets all hand flushed.

Crowe Street.

Nos. 16 and 18. Floors and walls damp. 1 bedroom no ventilation. Height of bedroom, 6ft. 2in., living room, 5ft. 10in. x 6ft. 4in. Houses to be closed.

Church Walk.

No. 27. Floors and walls damp, roofs out of repair, 1 bedroom no window for ventilation, 1 closet for 3 houses. House to be closed.

Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5. Back bedroom badly constructed, not fit to sleep in. 4 houses to be made into 2.

Nos. 16 and 17. Walls defective, floors damp, ventilation not sufficient. To be put in repair.

Nos. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26. Windows fixed, back bedrooms not sufficient ventilation. 3 houses overcrowded, 5 waterclosets to 9 houses. No paving for yard. Staircases dangerous. Brick floors damp. To be put in repair. A water closet to be provided to each house.

Church Lane.

Nos. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. One bedroom, 1 living room, no through ventilation. Height of ceiling, 6ft. Brick floors damp. These houses have been condemned.

Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. 4 houses badly overcrowded. Owing to the height of the bedrooms and living room and air space these houses have been condemned.

Union Street.

Nos. 84 and 86. A closing order has been issued. These houses are undergoing structural alterations and will be made into 1 house.

Nos. 61, 63 and 65. Lath and plaster walls, low ceilings and general state of repair. Houses have been condemned.

Nos. 14 and 16. Lath and plaster walls, thatched roof, only 1 bedroom in each. Houses have been condemned.

Nos. 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, and 32. 1 overcrowded. All windows in back bedrooms to be enlarged. Floors concreted, water closets constructed for each house, yards paved.

Nos. 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, and 35. All back bedrooms not fit to sleep in, ceilings low, and ventilation bad. This applies to living rooms at the back. Floors damp, yard not paved, water closet defective. 14 houses will be converted into 7. 6 houses overcrowded.

Nos. 4, 6, 8 and 10. Flushing apparatus to be provided.

Nos. 88, 90 and 92. To be converted into 1 house. No. 92 closing order issued.

Nos. 3, 5 and 7. Lath and plaster walls, brick floors, 2 rooms. Houses to be condemned.

Pound Lane.

Four houses lath and plaster walls, no drainage, floors damp, height of bedrooms and living rooms, 5ft. 11in., 5ft. 7in., 6ft. These houses have been condemned.

Spring Row.

Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23. 12 houses, 7 badly overcrowded. Back bedrooms low, not fit to sleep in, roofs in bad repair. Floors brick, no paving. Closet accommodation, privy type, no sinks. These houses to be converted into 7, and provided with water closets and sinks.

Stowupland Street.

Nos. 37, 39 and 41. No. 41 to be condemned. General situation and construction. No ventilation for living room.

No. 53. Bad state of repair, lath and plaster walls, brick floors. Bedroom damp and low, roof in bad state of repair. House to be condemned.

Nos. 59 and 61. Very damp brick on edge external walls, no through ventilation, bedrooms not fit to sleep in. 1 closet to 2 houses. Houses abut on to the river Gipping. These have been condemned and closing orders issued, but are still in occupation.

Bury Street.

Nos. 101, 105, 107, 109, and 111. No. 109 has been condemned. 1 bedroom no ventilation, and general construction of the house bad. Drains to be reconstructed, brick floors concreted and yard.

Nos. 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, and 78. These houses to be condemned. Bad state of repair and ventilation. Lath and plaster walls, floors defective, ceiling low. 3 houses overcrowded.

Regent Street.

Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. These houses have been condemned. Ventilation bad. Lath and plaster walls, all back bedrooms not fit to sleep in.

Nos. 67, 69, and 71. Floors defective and damp.

Violet Hill Road.

Nos. 61 and 65. These houses have been condemned and will be pulled down. Site required for Council's Housing Scheme.

Ipswich Street.

Nos. 59 and 61. The general construction, lath and plaster walls, defective floors, windows fixed. Houses have been condemned.

Nos. 40 and 42. No. 40, 1 bedroom closed, under 6ft. in height. No. 42, brick floor damp, closet no flushing apparatus.

No. 36, no flush for water closet and yard partly paved.

Stricklands Road.

Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12. Nos. 8, 10 and 12 to be condemned. Houses damp and ventilation bad. External walls partly wood.

Nos. 3 and 5, bedrooms to be ventilated. Low ceilings.

Stowupland Street.

Nos. 28, 30 and 32. One house overcrowded. Nos. 30 and 32 to be condemned. Height of living room, 6ft., rooms dark, brick floors damp. Bedroom No. 28 to have improved ventilation.

Nos. 40 and 42. No. 40 to be condemned. Living room, 6ft. bedroom, 5ft. 10in., ventilation bad. No. 42, improved ventilation for bedroom.

Bury Road.

Two houses lath and plaster, thatched roofs. To be condemned.

HOUSES CONDEMNED.

Church Lane, Nos. 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17.

Church Walk, No. 27.

Crowe Street, Nos. 16 and 18.

Union Street, Nos. 3, 5, 7, 84, 86, 14, 16, 61, 63, 65.

Regent Street, Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11.

Bury Street, Nos. 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, and 109.

Sickhouse Lane, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Violet Hill Road, Nos. 61 and 63.

Stowupland Street, Nos. 30, 32, 40, 41, 53, 59, and 61.

Stricklands Road, Nos. 8, 10, and 12.

Ipswich Street, Nos. 40, 59, and 61.

Bury Road, Nos. 1 and 2.

HOUSES TO BE CONVERTED.

Church Walk, 2, 3, 4, and 5	...	...	...	...	4 houses to 2
Union Street, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29,					
31, 33, and 35	...	...	...	14	„ „ 7
88, 90, and 92	...	...	...	3	„ „ 1
Spring Row, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23				12	„ „ 6
				33	to 16

Notices served under Housing Act for repairs, 6 representing 26 houses.

Closing Orders, 4 representing 7 houses.

CONDEMNED HOUSES OVERCROWDED.

Church Walk, Nos. 9, 10, 11, 14, and 17.

Crowe Street, Nos. 16 and 18.

Bury Street, Nos. 68, 72, and 74.

Union Street, Nos. 16 and 88.

Stowupland Street, No. 59.

HOUSES TO BE CONVERTED—OVERCROWDED.

Union Street, Nos. 9, 11, 15, 17, 23, and 29.

Spring Row, Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 21, and 23.

Regent Street, Nos. 41 and 47.

OTHER HOUSES OVERCROWDED.

Lime Tree Place, No. 29.
 Bury Street, Nos. 142 and 65.
 Union Street, Nos. 58 and 24.
 Cardinal's Road, No. 44.
 Violet Hill Road, Nos. 45 and 53.
 Church Walk, Nos. 19, 22 and 25.
 Regent Street, Nos. 16 and 102.
 Stowupland Street, No. 28.
 Crown Street, Nos. 11, 7 and 17.
 Bridge Street, Nos. 38, 92, and 114.
 Violet Hill, No. 51.
 Ipswich Street, No. 65.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the consideration they have always shown me, and the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the detailed information and assistance he has given me in connection with the General Sanitary Report, and his general assistance during the year.

Yours faithfully,

S. C. HOUNSFIELD,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

